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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I'm sure you're probably being deluged by responses so I will endeavour to keep this as short as possible.

First I am not an American, make of that what you will.

Short term impact of the settlement

None to Microsoft, much to US industry in general. To back this up let's look at what happened the last time there was a consent decree that Microsoft entered into. Did that help or hinder competition? Innovation? Or did it just give Microsoft an opportunity to damage the market, consumers and the US government more? Why did I include the US government, because a) you look as if you are corrupt, no better than some bunch of gangsters, whether or not this is true, and remember of 6 billion on the planet you number less than 300 million souls and b) innovation = better, cheaper, faster products and services = more revenue for the corporations and for the US Treasury, therefore let Microsoft, or any other corporation stifle it, and there goes lots of Treasury receipts, that's what we call in the UK a double whammy.

Long term impact

5.7 billion people think that you're dishonest, and no proclamations of "I am not a crook" will save you, that is very very bad. If the US has learnt anything since Sept 11 it's the phrase "asymmetric warfare", you are inviting people to come and knock you down by any means at their disposal by showing that you do not conform to the tenets of civilised behaviour, fairness and justice. You may be able to stop votes against you at the UN or the WTO or WIPO by those that see you being unfair and unjust, but you'll just end up with very angry populations of billions across the globe, and in such a population there is likely to be more than a few that have the means to do much harm and whatever harm they do to you is likely to spill over to the rest of us innocent folk in other countries that see the USAs petty politics for what it is. Now I know there are some real Right Wing nuts in the US, the sort that want some battle of Armeggedon, please don't give them the chance, revise the terms, make Microsoft an example to the world that American justice is not about money, or politics, it is about what is just, and fair, and right. This you can do, and if your political masters refuse to allow you that, resign en masse, tell them that if they want to let Microsoft off the hook, then they, the politicians will have to sign the papers themselves, because we all know the phrase "I was only following orders" is no defence, and show the world they are the ones who would condone injustice on such an egregious scale.

In conclusion, The DOJ has in its power to show us all that the US is really one of us, one of the Good Guys, revisit the terms of the Microsoft Settlement, make them watertight, make them agreeable to the industry as a whole, make sure that they stick to the terms, have them subject to random checks, and audits, make their dealings open and transparent, work with the European Commissioner and other national and international authorities to help bring about a cohesive and unified stand that means that not Microsoft, nor any other corporation can get away with such heinous activity in the future, show us all that the pen is truly mightier than the sword, do the right thing.

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